Transparent selection procedure for SC/HC judges

†1700. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in different courts in the country, especially in High Courts and Supreme Court, as on date;

(b) whether the main reason for the pending cases is the shortage of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is planning to make the selection procedure of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court simple, easy and transparent;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per the information received from the Registry of the Supreme Court and the respective Registries of the High Courts, 50,659 matters were pending in the Supreme Court as on 1st June, 2009 and 3910858 cases were pending in the High Courts as on 31.12.2008.

(b) and (c) Vacancies of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court is one of the reasons for pendency in these courts. As on 10th July, 2009, against an approved strength of 886 Judges in the High Courts, 237 were vacant and there were 7 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court against an approved strength of 31 Judges.

(d) to (f) The Government is preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the country for which consultations have already begun. A decision in the matter will be taken on completion of the consultation process.

Reforms in judiciary

1701. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to review present system of appointment of Judges and action against corrupt Judges;

(b) if so, the main reforms which are being considered in the judiciary;

(c) whether any constitutional amendment would be required for this;

(d) whether Government has also considered the views of Chief Justice of India (CJI) while making reforms in judiciary; and

(e) Whether CJI has also agreed that all Judges shall declare their assets provided they are given legal cover?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.